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USDA in cooperation with the PA Department of Agriculture - - - - - -providing timely, accurate, and useful statistics in service to U.S. agriculture

KEYSTONE Ag Digest

Note to Survey Respondents: Results of many surveys we conduct throughout the year are included in this report! Most survey results are **not** published individually. **Thank you** for taking the time to complete our surveys!

Released: Early April 2006 Bi-Monthly Vol. 06 No. 07

HOG AND PIG INVENTORY

There were 1,110,000 hogs and pigs on Pennsylvania farms on March 1, 2006. This estimated inventory was 10,000 head more than both the last quarter and the March 2005 inventory. Market hog inventory, at 1,010,000 head, increased 10,000 head since December; while breeding stock inventory, at 100,000 head, was unchanged from December, but down 5,000 from last March. The December 2005-February 2006 pig crop totaled 465,000 head, up 18,000 head from March a year earlier and up 4,000 head from the September -November 2005 pig crop. There were 47,000 sows farrowed during the quarter, unchanged from the previous year. The average litter rate was 9.90 pigs per litter, up from 9.80 pigs in December and up from the 9.50 pigs for March the previous year.

Pennsylvania hog farmers intend to have 48,000 sows farrow during the March-May 2006 period and 48,000 for the June-August quarter, 1,000 more than actually farrowed in March-May 2005 and 1,000 more than actually farrowed in the June-August period one year ago.

U.S. inventory of all hogs and pigs on March 1, 2006, was 60.1 million head. This was up 1 percent from March 1, 2005, but down 2 percent from December 1, 2005. Breeding inventory, at 6.03 million head, was up slightly from the previous quarter. Market hog inventory, at 54.1 million head, was up 1 percent from last year, but down 2 percent from last quarter.

The December 2005 - February 2006 U.S. pig crop, at 25.7 million head, was up 1 percent from 2005, and up 2 percent from 2004. Sows farrowing during this period totaled 2.84 million head, up slightly from both 2004 and 2005. The sows farrowed during this quarter represented 47 percent of the breeding herd. The average pigs saved per litter was 9.03 for the December 2005-February 2006 period, compared to 8.94 last year. Pigs saved per litter by size of operation ranged from 7.50 for operations with 1-99 hogs to 9.10 for operations with more than 5,000 hogs and pigs.

U.S. hog producers intend to have 2.90 million sows farrow during the March-May 2006 quarter, up 1 percent from the actual farrowings during the same period in both 2004 and 2005. Intended farrowings for June-August 2006, at 2.92 million sows, are up slightly from 2005, and up 1 percent from 2004. The total number of hogs under contract, owned by operations with over 5,000 head, but raised by contractees, accounted for 39 percent of the total U.S. hog inventory, unchanged from last year.

This issue contains results of the March Agricultural Survey. We wish to thank the many Pennsylvania Farmers who helped make these results possible.

HOGS & PIGS: INVENTORY NUMBER, MARCH 1, 2005-2006

Item	Pennsylvania			United States		
	2005	2006	2006/05	2005	2006	2006/05
	(000) Head		*Percent*	*(000) Head*		*Percent*
Inventory - March 1:						
All Hogs & Pigs	1,100	1,110	101	59,699	60,104	101
Kept For Breeding	105	100	95	5,941	6,025	101
Market	995	1,010	102	53,757	54,079	101
Market Hogs & Pigs By Weight Groups:						
Under 60 Pounds	290	360	124	19,667	19,838	101
60-119 Pounds	290	280	97	13,087	13,114	100
120-179 Pounds	230	210	91	11,360	11,317	100
180 Pounds and Over	185	160	86	9,644	9,811	102
Sows Farrowing:						
December [1] - February	47	47	100	2,835	2,840	100
March-May	47	[2] 48	102	2,882	[2] 2,896	101
June-August	47	[2] 48	102	2,918	[2] 2,923	100
Pig Crop:						
December [1] - February	447	465	104	25,343	25,654	101
	Number			*Number*		
Pigs Per Litter:						
December [1] - February	9.50	9.90	104	8.94	9.03	101

[1] December preceding year. [2] Intentions.

MARCH FARM PRICES RECEIVED INDEX DECREASED 1 POINT FROM LAST MONTH

The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received by Farmers in March, at 113, based on 1990-92=100, decreased 1 point (0.9 percent) from February. The Crop Index is up 3 points (2.6 percent) but the Livestock Index decreased 3 points (2.6 percent). Producers received higher commodity prices for eggs, lettuce, potatoes, and cauliflower. Lower prices were received for cattle, milk, tomatoes, and strawberries. The overal index is also affected by the seasonal change based on a 3-year average mix of commodities a producer sells. Increased average marketings of asparagus, strawberries, milk, and tomatoes offset decreased marketings of cattle, oranges, upland cotton, and corn.

Preliminary All Farm Products Index is down 6 points (5.0 percent) from March 2005. The Food Commodities Index, at 116, decreased 1 point (0.9 percent) from last month and 7 points (5.7 percent) from March 2005.

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS, SELECTED COMMODITIES, MARCH 2006

Commodity	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006 [1]	Mar 2005	Feb 2006	Mar 2006 [1]
		Dollars					
Corn	Bu.	2.40	2.36	2.42	2.02	2.02	2.01
Wheat, Winter [2]	Bu.	-	-	-	3.32	3.59	3.67
Oats	Bu.	2.05	2.39	2.26	1.73	1.82	1.77
Barley [2]	Bu.	-	-	-	2.49	2.57	2.55
Soybeans [2]	Bu.	-	-	-	5.95	5.67	5.55
Hay, Dry All	Ton	120.00	136.00	138.00	92.60	95.00	97.10
Dry Alfalfa	Ton	140.00	169.00	174.00	98.60	99.20	100.00
Dry Other	Ton	107.00	128.00	132.00	77.80	83.20	86.60
Apples, Fresh Use	Lb.	.225	.210	.240	.184	.259	.256
Potatoes	Cwt.	[6]	[6]	[6]	6.44	7.44	8.31
Cows, Slaughter	Cwt.	52.70	49.10	50.00	55.00	49.70	49.90
Steers & Heifers	Cwt.	88.00	87.80	85.10	95.20	97.80	94.10
Calves	Cwt.	130.00	138.00	136.00	136.00	142.00	138.00
Barrows & Gilts	Cwt.	52.10	41.10	40.90	51.50	43.20	42.80
Sows	Cwt.	42.30	30.50	33.20	43.40	31.10	34.40
Eggs [3]	Doz.	.310	.210	.450	.327	.301	.499
Milk, Fluid Grade	Cwt.	17.50	15.80	-	15.60	13.50	12.80
Manufactured Grade	Cwt.	15.40	12.00	-	14.80	12.60	11.80
All	Cwt.	17.50	15.80	14.70	15.60	13.50	12.80
Milk Cows [4]	Head	-	-	-	-	-	-

[1] Preliminary. [2] Pennsylvania price not published on monthly basis, average price is published annually. [3] Market (table) eggs, including eggs sold retail by the producer. [4] Quarterly (Feb., Apr., July, Oct.). [5] Price not published to avoid disclosure of individual firms. [6] Monthly price for potatoes discontinued in 2005.

PENNSYLVANIA APPLES IN COLD STORAGE, FEBRUARY 2006

Variety	February 28, 2005					February 28, 2006				
	Fresh Market [1]		Processing		Total	Fresh Market [1]		Processing		Total
	Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.		Reg.	C.A.	Reg.	C.A.	
	(1,000) Bushels									
York	1	1	180	625	807	7	1	795	582	1,385
Stayman	13	4	40	0	57	3	4	19	0	26
Rome	10	60	520	354	944	3	29	341	350	723
Red Delicious	30	215	70	59	374	13	285	65	38	401
Golden Delicious	10	103	350	360	823	39	210	453	395	1,097
Gala	0	6	1	5	12	1	12	3	0	16
McIntosh	2	3	1	11	17	1	3	1	10	15
Fuji	70	21	51	4	146	40	40	6	0	86
Other [2]	25	75	200	200	500	18	64	99	87	268
Total	**161**	**488**	**1,413**	**1,618**	**3,680**	**125**	**648**	**1,782**	**1.462**	**4,017**

[1] Includes total quantities on hand; graded and ungraded, packed or loose on the last day of the month specified. [2] Includes miscellaneous varieties and some quantities of above varieties not identified.

n/p (not published) due to too few reports or insignificant volumes stored, these are included in the 'other' variety category.

COLD STORAGE HIGHLIGHTS, FEBRUARY 28, 2006

Apples in cold storage reported by cold storage warehouses for Pennsylvania totaled 4,017,000 bushels on February 28, 2006, compared to 3,680,000 bushels on February 28, 2005. The three varieties with the largest fresh market and processing reported stocks in bushels were: York with 1,385,000; Golden Delicious with 1,097,000 bushels, and Rome with 723,000 bushels.

Total apple stocks in Pennsylvania totaled 168,714,000 pounds on February 28, 2006, compared to 154,552,000 pounds on February 28, 2005. There were no pears in storage in Pennsylvania on February 28, 2006.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Pennsylvania farmers intend to plant more acres of soybeans this spring, and planted more acres of winter wheat last fall than a year ago. Barley planting intentions are unchanged from last year, and harvesting intentions for Pennsylvania seedleaf-type tobacco, light air-cured burley tobacco, and dry hay are all unchanged from last year. Planting intentions of oats, corn for all purposes, and sorghum are all below the levels of a year ago, as is the intended acreage of Southern Maryland-type tobacco for harvest. All wheat planted, at 160,000 acres, is up 7 percent from last year, and 14 percent above the 2004 planted acres. Barley planting intentions are estimated at 55,000 acres, unchanged from 2004, and down 15 percent from the acreage planted 2004. Oat planting intended acreage is 135,000, down 4 percent from last year, but up 4 percent from 2004.

Intended plantings of corn for all purposes are 1,270,000 acres, down 80,000 acres or 6 percent from last year and 130,000 acres or 9 percent below two years ago. Farmers also intend to plant 8,000 acres of sorghum in 2006, which is down 3,000 acres from last year, and down 4,000 acres from 2004. Soybean acreage planting intentions are 450,000 acres, 5 percent more than the 430,000 planted both last year and in 2004.

Intentions are to harvest 1,100 acres of Southern Maryland-type tobacco, down 27 percent from 2005 and down 50 percent from two years ago. Pennsylvania seedleaf-type tobacco harvested acreage is expected to be 1,300 acres, unchanged from last year, but down 28 percent from two years ago. Pennsylvania farmers also intend to plant 2,200 acres of light air-cured burley tobacco this year, which is unchanged from last year. Harvest intentions for all dry hay in 2006 are estimated at 1,600,000 acres, unchanged from last year's harvest and 100,000 acres less than in 2004.

Corn growers in the United States intend to plant 78.0 million acres of corn for all purposes in 2006, down 5 percent from 2005 and 4 percent below 2004. If realized, this would be the lowest corn acreage since 2001 when 75.7 million acres were planted for all purposes. Expected acreage is down from last year in most states as producers intend to switch to other less intensive crops due to high fertilizer and fuel costs. Dry conditions also contributed to lower corn planting intentions in the southern Great Plains.

Soybean producers intend to plant 76.9 million acres in 2006, up 7 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the largest planted area on record. Acreage increases are expected in all growing areas, except in the central and southern Atlantic Coast states and the southern Great Plains. The largest acreage increase is in North Dakota, where high soybean yields last year and high input costs have some farmers shifting acreage from other crops to soybeans. Large increases in soybean acreage are also expected across the Corn Belt, including 600,000 more acres in Illinois and 500,000 more acres in Indiana.

All wheat planted area is expected to total 57.1 million acres, down slightly from 2005. If realized, this would be the lowest planted acreage since 1972. Winter wheat planted area for the 2006 crop is 41.4 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. Of the total, about 29.8 million acres are Hard Red Winter wheat; 7.42 million acres are Soft Red Winter wheat, and 4.22million acres White Winter wheat.

All wheat planted area is expected to total 57.1 million acres, down slightly from 2005. If realized, this would be the lowest planted acreage since 1972. Winter wheat planted area for the 2006 crop is 41.4 million acres, up 2 percent from last year. Of the total, about 29.8 million acres are Hard Red Winter wheat; 7.42 million acres are Soft Red Winter wheat, and 4.22million acres White Winter wheat.

The 2006 intended sorghum area intended to be planted for all purposes is estimated at 6.48 million acres, up fractionally from 2005. Barley producers intend to plant 3.67 million acres in 2006, down 5 percent from last year. If realized, this will be the lowest barley acreage since estimates began in 1926. Oat acres seeded and to be seeded for the 2006 crop year are expected to total 4.32 million, up 2 percent from last year's planted area. All tobacco growers intend to harvest 306,630 acres in 2006, up 3 percent from the record low of 298,020 acres set in 2005, but down 25 percent from 2004. Acreage to be harvested for dry hay is expected to be 61.5 million in 2006, down fractionally from 2005.

Data users are reminded that actual acreages planted may vary from intentions because of changes in grower plans, the effects of weather, availability of production inputs, and changes in market conditions prior to planting. Data users are also reminded that this report includes intentions to plant for all purposes.

PROSPECTIVE PLANTINGS

Crop	Area Planted			
	2004	2005	Ind 2006	2006/05
	(000) Acres			*Percent*
CORN				
Pennsylvania	1,400	1,350	1,270	94
United States	80,929	81,759	78,019	95
ALL WHEAT [1]				
Pennsylvania	140	150	160	107
United States	59,674	57,229	57,128	100
OATS [1]				
Pennsylvania	130	140	135	96
United States	4,085	4,246	4,324	102
BARLEY [1]				
Pennsylvania	65	55	55	100
United States	4,527	3,875	3,667	95
SOYBEANS				
Pennsylvania	430	430	450	105
United States	75,208	72,142	76,895	107
SORGHUM				
Pennsylvania	12	11	8	73
United States	7,486	6,454	6,483	100
DRY ALL HAY [2]				
Pennsylvania	1,700	1,600	1,600	100
United States	61,966	61,649	61,478	100
ALL TOBACCO [2]				
Pennsylvania	4.0	5.0	4.6	92
United States	408.1	298.0	306.6	103

[1] Includes area planted in preceding fall. [2] Area harvested.

MARCH GRAIN STOCKS

Pennsylvania's corn stored in all positions on March 1, 2006 was 59.0 million bushels, down almost 7 percent from last year's level of 63.4 million bushels. On-farm corn stocks amounted to 52 million bushels down 20 percent from December's level. Off-farm stocks were 7.0 million bushels. Wheat stored off farms totaled 5.3 million bushels, down 16 percent from last year, but down 20 percent from December 2005's total of 6.6 million bushels. Soybeans stored off farms totaled 2.15 million bushels down 27 percent from December. Barley stored off farms was 437 thousand bushels, down 157,000 bushels from December. Sorghum stored off farms was 77 thousand bushels, down 4,000 bushels from December. Oats stored in all positions were 3.2 million bushels, 2.8 million on farm and 406 thousand off farm. Pennsylvania's on-farm stocks of corn and oats are the only two commodities published; all other commodities are not published separately but instead are included with an unallocated National total.

For the **United States**, corn stocks in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 6.99 billion bushels, up 3 percent from March 1, 2005. Of the total stocks, 4.06 billion bushels are stored on farms, down 2 percent from a year earlier. Off-farm stocks, at 2.93 billion bushels, are up 12 percent from a year ago. The December 2005 - February 2006 indicated disappearance is 2.83 billion bushels, compared with 2.70 billion bushels during the same period last year. Soybeans stored in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 1.67 billion bushels, up 21 percent from March 1, 2005. This is the largest March 1 stocks level on record, exceeding the previous record set in 1999 by 1 percent. Soybean stocks stored on farms are estimated at a record high 872 million bushels, up 10 percent from a year ago. Off-farm stocks, at 797 million bushels, are up 36 percent from last March. Indicated disappearance for the December 2005 - February 2006 quarter totaled 834 million bushels, down 10 percent from the same period a year earlier. All wheat stored in all positions on March 1, 2006 totaled 972 million bushels, down 1 percent from a year ago. On-farm stocks are estimated at 256 million bushels, down 16 percent from last year. Off-farm stocks, at 716 million bushels, are up 5 percent from a year ago. The December 2005 - February 2006 indicated disappearance is 457 million bushels, up 3 percent from the same period a year earlier.

MONTHLY POULTRY SUMMARY

Item	Unit	Pennsylvania			United States		
		Feb 2005	Jan 2006	Feb 2006	Feb 2005	Jan 2006	Feb 2006
Layers	Thous.	24,455	24,255	23,667	348,791	349,246	349,653
Eggs Per 100 Layers	Number	2,135	2,354	2,151	1,986	2,211	1,995
Eggs Produced	Million	522	571	509	6,928	7,721	6,974
Chick Hatch-Egg Type	Thous.	4,790	4,231	4,269	33,932	35,422	33,665
Chick Hatch-Broiler Type	Thous.	12,951	13,942	12,976	731,274	804,073	733,145
Poults Placed	Thous.	-	-	-	21,321	24,364	23,300

EGG PRODUCTION

Egg production in Pennsylvania during February 2006 totaled 509 million eggs, down 2 percent from the 522 million eggs produced in February 2005. The total number of layers averaged 23.7 million during February, down 3 percent from last year. Production per 100 layers was 2,151 eggs during the month, an increase of 16 eggs from February 2005. Egg-type chicks hatched during February 2006 totaled 4.27 million, down 11 percent from the 4.79 million hatched the previous February. Broiler-type chicks hatched totaled 12.98 million during February 2006, up slightly from the 12.95 million hatched during the same month last year.

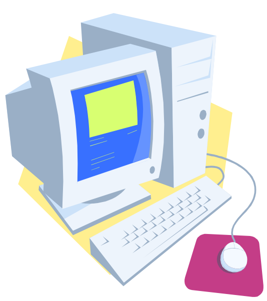
United States' egg production totaled 6.97 billion during February 2006, up 1 percent from last year's total during February. The total number of layers during February averaged 350 million, up slightly from the number of layers during the same month last year. February egg production per 100 layers was 1995 eggs, up 9 eggs from the same month last year. Egg-type chicks hatched in the United States during February totaled 33.7 million, down 1 percent from February 2005. Broiler-type hatch totaled 733 million, up slightly percent from last year at this time. There were 23.3 million turkey poults placed in the United States during February 2006, up 9 percent from the placements during the same month a year ago.

RED MEAT PRODUCTION

Commercial red meat production in Pennsylvania during February 2006 totaled 92.5 million pounds, dressed weight basis, up 5 percent from February 2005. Beef production, at 79.5 million pounds live weight, was up 7 percent from February 2005. Total head slaughtered was 63,200, up 2 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 60 pounds to 1,258 pounds. Veal production was 6.0 million pounds live weight, up 13 percent from a year ago. Calf slaughter, at 14,000 head, was up 3 percent, and average live weight increased 39 pounds to 428 pounds. Pork production, at 56.6 million pounds live weight, was up 3 percent from a year earlier. Total head slaughtered was 229,200, up 2 percent from February of 2005. Average live weight was 247 pounds, up 2 pounds from February of last year. Lamb and mutton production was 301,000 pounds live weight, down 10 percent. The number slaughtered was 3,000, down 19 percent from February of last year. The average live weight increased 8 pounds from February 2005 to 99 pounds.

COMMERCIAL LIVESTOCK SLAUGHTER, FEB 2006

Specie	Unit	Pennsylvania	United States
Red Meat Prod	Million pounds	92.5	3,483.8
Cattle	1,000 Head	63.2	2,345.9
	1,000 pounds live	79,453	3,009,921
Calves	1,000 Head	14.0	53.0
	1,000 pounds live	5,981	19,192
Hogs	1,000 Head	229.2	8,054.7
	1,000 pounds live	56,635	2,190,183
Sheep & Lambs	1,000 Head	3.0	202.5
	1,000 pounds live	301	29,344



*County estimates for **2005** can now be found online for barley, oats, wheat, corn, soybeans and sorghum. Check out NASS's homepage at **www.usda.gov/nass/** Click on 'QuickSTATS'*

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